

## **NRCS, PARTNERS DISCUSS AG ISSUES WITH REP. GUTKNECHT**

Claron Krogness, Soil Conservationist and Watershed Planner for the Whitewater PL-566 watershed project in the Rochester Minnesota Field Office, recently had an opportunity to discuss ag issues with Minnesota 1<sup>st</sup> District Congressman Gil Gutknecht. Rep. Gutknecht attended the annual “Country Breakfast On The Farm”, part of the City of Rochester’s “Rochesterfest” celebration. “Country Breakfast On The Farm” gives people an opportunity to tour an area farm and get a better understanding of Minnesota agriculture and it’s issues. Nearly 5,000 people attended this year’s event, held at the Durst Brothers modern dairy farm near Kasson.



Seated from left to right in the photo are: Rep. Gutknecht; Donna Schmidt, farm broadcaster for KROC radio station in Rochester; Pat Jirik, University of MN Extension Educator for 4-H; Lisa Behnken, University of MN Extension Educator for agriculture, and Claron Krogness, NRCS Soil Conservationist and Watershed Planner.

The group discussed issues relating to the dairy industry, including the importance of dairy as an industry in Minnesota, preserving small dairy farms, and the role of hay rotations in soil conservation systems.